

## Update: Neighborhood Relations and Safety Taskforce – Ordinance Update

August, 2018

Summary of work to date of Neighborhood Safety and Relations Taskforce related to feedback on Public Good Order Ordinance changes proposed in March, 2018 to City Council.

Process: Members reviewed the draft ordinance in detail at all 6 meetings of the Taskforce. There was a consistent and representative group of a variety of stakeholders present at each meeting. There were opportunities for individual and group time to review and comment on the details of the concepts, intent, and language. There was significant debate, many questions posed, and many misunderstandings clarified. There were also significant changes made to the proposed ordinances based on the member feedback during the process (see attached chart). While the changes were not voted on by the group there was general consensus that the ordinance was one “tool in the tool box” when looking at impacting alcohol and other substance misuse.

There was general agreement on and changes proposed by Taskforce related to:

- The need for clear and simple language that reflected the community as a whole and not targeted neighborhoods.
- The issues that existed related to alcohol and other drug misuse and the behaviors that resulted. The Purpose Statement (A) was broadly supported.
- The importance of clear and not targeted definitions related to physical neighborhood disruption.
- The importance of focusing on alcohol AND other drugs.
- The importance of the language being clear that this was used only in the cases where there was clear/demonstrable intoxication AND behavior that indicated actual/potential harm to self/others. Just intoxication was not sufficient.
- The need for a clear definition of intoxication for both alcohol and other drugs.
- The importance of including vulnerability from harm as well as harm to self/others.
- The importance of this ordinance implementation including options for choosing education intervention or other method to remove from record of individual and hopefully deter/prevent future issues.
- The importance of safe rides home.
- The need for clear language that if owner/occupant consents to drop off of more than 10 people at a location that this would be allowable.
- The importance of buses not being used as party buses and as transportation to locations in the community that did not want those that were arriving.

There was also general agreement from the group that there were many misconceptions about the original proposed ordinance changes in the community. The consensus was to bring proposed changes back to Council no sooner than early Fall so that there could be clear opportunities for conversations with a wide group of community stakeholders.

There was a minority but existing concern about the concepts of:

- Prevention focused language related to being “reasonably likely” to harm self/others. Some felt this was open to too much interpretation but many felt that it was a critical prevention opportunity.
- Physical neighborhood disruption section being included at all. Some felt that this was targeted only at student neighborhoods for post-party neighborhood concerns. Many felt that with edits proposed during group discussion that the language was not overly concerning and addressed identified problems.
- Inclusion of language related to buses in any form as this had existing stigma at UWEC related to “ending the Blue Bus”.
- Inclusion of any language connection to “Public Good Order” as this was negative “tag line” at UWEC that could not be overcome.

UWEC did provide input after completion of Taskforce meetings that they were not comfortable with connection to existing Public Good Order Ordinance and Transportation Ordinance although they were supportive conceptually of content.